

Message Text

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12

ORIGIN NEA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66623

DRAFTED BY:NEA:INS:DKUX

APPROVED BY:NEA:INS:LBLAINGEN

NEA:PAB:DCOCHRAN

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R 220022Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035235

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM PARIS DATED FEBRUARY 19, 1974
SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ISLAMABAD, LONDON,
NATO, CINCEUR, CINCUSAFE, DEPTARMY WASHDC IS REPEATED TO
YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 4250

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, UK, FR, PK

SUBJECT: UK DIPLOMAT'S VIEW OF FRANCO/PAKISTANI
EXCHANGES CONCERNING ARMS

1. UK FIRST SECRETARY RENWICK GAVE EMBASSY OFFICER
THE FOLLOWING AS UK VIEW HERE OF THE STATE OF FRENCH/
PAKISTANI DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING ARMS. HE SAID VIEW
WAS BASED ON FRENCH AND OTHER DIPLOMATIC, ECONOMIC
AND MILITARY SOURCES. FRENCH FINANCE MINISTER HAS
GAINED GOF ACCEPTANCE OF HIS VIEW THAT FRANCE SHOULD
BE FREE TO SELL ARMS TO PAKISTAN IF PAKISTANIS HAVE
MONEY TO PAY FOR THEM, HE IS CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT
PAKISTAN DOES NOT AND WILL NOT HAVE THE MONEY FOR
SUBSTANTIAL DEALS. THE RUMORS OF THE SALE OF A PLANT
TO PRODUCE MIRAGES IN PAKISTAN FOR THE ARABS ARE
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UNFOUNDED. PAKISTAN DOES NOT HAVE THE FINACIAL

RESOURCES, AND ARAB OIL PRODUCERS WILL NOT PROVIDE THEM. IN ANY CASE, THREE FRENCH WOULD WISH TO PRODUCE THE MIRAGES THEMSELVES FOR SALE TO THE ARABS. THE OTHER RUMOR THAT ABU DHABI MIGHT BUY MIRAGES FOR REPEAT FOR PAKISTAN DOES NOT SEEM RELIABLE IN LIGHT OF UK EXPERIENCE OF ABU DHABI'S POLICIES. ABU DHABI MIGHT OBTAIN PAKISTANI HELP IN USING THE AIRCRAFT IN RETURN FOR PAYMENTS AND A PROMISE THAT "IN CASE OF NEED" (A NEED DETERMINED BY ABU DHABI), PAKISTAN MIGHT USE THE AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, ABU DHABI'S GENEROSITY WOULD NOT EXTEND TO PROCURING AIRCRAFT OVER WHICH PAKISTAN WOULD EXERCISE CONTROL. UK THOUGHT THAT THE RUMORS OF PAKISTAN ARMS DEALS WERE BASICALLY PART OF BHUTTO'S BLUFF.

2. COMMENT: DESPITE SPECULATION TO THE CONTRARY, WE HAVE AGREED WITH RENWICK'S VIEWS THAT ABU DHABI WOULD NOT ACTUALLY PURCHASE MIRAGES FOR PAKISTAN. WE DO NOT DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT THE PAKISTANIS COULD BE USED TO FLY AIRCRAFT AND EVENTUALLY TO TRAIN ABU DHABI PILOTS. PAKISTAN IS KNOWN TO HAVE MADE ITS SURPLUS PILOTS AND TECHNICIANS AVAILABLE TO OTHER MUSLIM STATES. IN EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES AND WITH ADDITIONAL NATIONS PURCHASING MIRAGE AIRCRAFT, PAKISTANI PILOTS ARE AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAINTAIN THEIR PROFICIENCY WHILE THE GOVERNMENT IS EARNING THE GOODWILL INHERENT IN ASSISTING THEIR BROTHER MUSLIMS. FINALLY, THE PROGRAM DOES PROVIDE THE PAKISTANIS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPECT RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE IN TIME OF NEED. WE THEREFORE CANNOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT AIRCRAFT OF OTHER MUSLIM STATES, SUCH AS ABU DHABI, COULD BE USED TO SUPPLEMENT EXISTING PAKISTANI MILITARY RESOURCES IN CASE OF CONFLICT.
IRWIN UNQUOTE RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, PERSONNEL TRAINING, MILITARY SALES, ECONOMIC DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: rowelle0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE035235
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA:INS:DKUX
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740215/aaaaanxg.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: rowelle0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <30-Sep-2002 by rowelle0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UK DIPLOMAT'S VIEW OF FRANCO/PAKISTANI EXCHANGES CONCERNING ARMS
TAGS: MARR, UK, FR, PK
To: NEW DELHI KABUL
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005